



St. James United Church



Belong • Grow • Serve

330 Elizabeth Ave,
St. John's, NL, A1B 1T9

Celebration of Worship for October 18, 2026



The people of St. James United Church are eternal seekers who value diversity within our congregation, city and all of society. We affirm each person's uniqueness and believe that all persons deserve to be valued, treated with equity, and respected. We are all children of God, walking many paths of spirituality.

Further, we proudly and publicly declare our commitment to practice radical hospitality and strive in every way to provide a safe and supportive place for all persons to participate in the worship and work of our church.

Guided by the teachings of Jesus, we embrace all persons, regardless of creed, race, age, ability, economic status, cultural and ethnic background, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, or any other difference that has led to marginalization or oppression.

In fond and loving memory of a wonderful husband, father,
grandfather and great grandfather.

T. Alex Hickman

October 19, 1925 - January 10, 2016

Nancy, Sandy, Heather, Harry and Peter

October 18, 2026, Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

Leading: Rev. James Ravenscroft, Marilyn Adams, Linda Andrews, Bob
Rose, and the St. James United Guitar Group

Ushers: Damien Betts, Bill Pike, Cindy Pike, Marilyn Adams
and Jean Thompson

*Take whatever posture for singing & prayers that is most comfortable.
Print in **bold** indicates that the portion is read or sung by everyone.*

We Come to Worship

PRELUDE: "Here I Am Lord" (Dan Schutte)

WELCOME & LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE

We welcome and greet each other in Innu-aimun, French and Portuguese.

LAND-KINSHIP ACKNOWLEDGEMENT; SHARING OF PEACE

*We give thanks for the land, acknowledge treaty obligations and affirm our
commitment to the inclusion of everyone within our community of faith.*

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Inspired by Psalm 96:1-10*)

We come together to sing to God, to bless their holy name.

We give thanks for all of God's marvellous works.

Great is the One who made the heavens and the earth,

the world in all its beauty is God's sanctuary.

Sing praise to God, every people and nation.

We will worship God, the sovereign over all the earth.

OPENING PRAYER

Holy One, we gather as your people,

trusting in you our one and only sovereign.

In you we place our trust, confident in your saving love.

Be with us as we offer you worship,

transforming us through your Spirit, to walk with Jesus

as we bring your love and peace to the world.
We pray in his loving name. Amen.

HYMN: “Just a Closer Walk with Thee” (see *insert*)

We Share in Love and Sacrament

OUR LIFE AND WORK: *We share what is going on in our community.*

GIVING THANKS FOR THE GIFT OF SERVICE: *We take time to highlight the importance of serving our community and our congregation.*

OFFERING: *There are many ways to support this church: place a gift in the plate, use the square (card tap machine) in foyer, scan the QR code on the left, use PAR, mail the office, go to the website (www.stjamesuc.org), e-transfer (email treasurer @stjamesuc.org). Tax receipts available upon request.*



OFFERTORY: “Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow”
**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God
all creatures high and low; give thanks to God in love
made known: Creator, Word and Spirit One.**

PRAYER OF GRATITUDE AND GRACE

HYMN: “Because He Lives” (see *insert*)

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATE FOR BAPTISM

We welcome Kristan Bennett & Ted Lacey as they bring Ben for baptism

LIGHTING OF BAPTISMAL CANDLE AND PROMISES

CONGREGATIONAL COMMITMENT

Do you promise to love this child and his family as together we extend Christ’s love in the world? **We do with God’s help.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & ACT OF BAPTISM

BLESSING AND PRESENTATION OF CANDLE

BLESSING OF PARENTS AND FAMILY

WELCOME BY THE CONGREGATION

...we have welcomed him into the Body of Christ, each of us children of God, Mother and Father of us all. **As siblings in Christ, we welcome you Ben into this family in faith.**

The congregation may applaud as a sign of welcome.

ANTHEM: "I Have a Dream" (Bjorn Ulvaeus, Benny Andersson)

We Listen and Respond

READINGS: *At the end of each reading please say, "Thanks be to God."*
Isaiah 45:1-7 and Matthew 22:15-22

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & PRAYER OF JESUS (VU p. 921)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

We Leave to Serve

HYMN: "Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore" (VU 563)

BLESSING AND SENDING (Based on 1 Peter 2:9; 2 Corinthians 12:9)

We are called to be people of hope, a community of God's beloved,
a community in Christ sharing in service of God's reign.

We do it in the power of love, blessed in God, Abba, Christ & Spirit.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

POSTLUDE: "Keep on the Sunny Side" (J. Howard Entwistle)

Please remain seated during the postlude.

St. James United Church

Chair of the Church Board

Pamela Norman

Minister:

Rev. James Ravenscroft

Minister Emeritus:

Rev. Dr. Donovan Brown

Co-Directors of Music:

Amy Dalziel & Bob Rose

Technology Support:

Jake Thompson

Office Administrator:

Stephanie Harnum

Church Custodian:

Bruce Winsor

Office: 722-1881, x200; Email: info@stjamesuc.org;

Emergency Cellphone: 1-709-351-0983; Website: www.stjamesuc.org



@StJamesUCNL



@stjamesuc

WiFi: StJamesGuest WiFi Password: StJamesUC

Life and Work - October 18, 2026

Post-worship Bible Study: : After Worship on Sunday, we have our post-worship Bible Study. Come to the library 30 minutes after the start of coffee time to further explore the Bible readings of the day

Rev. James' New Office Hours: If you would like to see Rev. James, he is in the church office on Wednesday evenings between 7:15 pm and 9:00 pm and on Thursdays between 10:00 am and 12:00 pm. If he is not in during those times, he has been called out on an emergency. Should that happen Stephanie can arrange an alternate time.

October is about Gratitude: This month during worship, we want to give thanks for the many ways we all share love and kindness in the world, and as such extend God's love as well. As part of the service on Oct. 18, Oct. 25 and Nov. 1, we will take time for someone to share about some ways they serve others: in the wider community, in the congregation, and on one of our committees, groups or teams. We would love to hear from you too. Email the office (info@stjamesuc.org) and let us know what you do and so give us all a chance to say thanks!

AOTS Men's Club Meeting: The next AOTS Men's Club Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 21st at 12:30PM with lunch served at 1:00PM. New members are always welcome.

Meditation for Busy People: Each Wednesday at 5:45 pm, we host a short time of Christian Meditation followed by additional spiritual practices like Lectio Divina, walking the labyrinth, a wonderful chance to come to inner quiet as we each focus on God's love within us. Come to the Fellowship Room. If you have not practiced Meditation before, arrive at 5:30 pm and Rev. James will teach you how to go about it. Following meditation, each week there is an additional spiritual practice to take part in, such as Lectio Divina, walking the labyrinth or Taizé.

Use this link if you would prefer to join the group virtually:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88638302614?pwd=y4Ad1OqHjb8dtsWSLXJNMKkf2998f3.1>

Meditation Plus! Following our weekly meditation gathering, why not stay for another form of prayer or learning at 6:30 pm. The schedule is as follows:

First Wednesday of the month: Taizé Prayer (a time of singing and reflection)

Second Wednesday: Lectio Divina (shared reflection on a short Bible passage)
Third Wednesday: Post meditation teaching (learn more about Christian meditation)
Fourth Wednesday: Labyrinth Walk (a meditation practice focused on movement)

Care Home Services: Each month, Rev. James and various volunteers lead worship services and hymn sings at 3 different care homes. Feel free to come and worship, sing, and meet the residents, some of whom are members of St. James.

- 2nd Thursday at 2 pm - Worship with Bob Rose, UCW and AOTS at Pleasant View Towers.
- 3rd Wednesday at 3 pm - Hymn Sing with Doreen Brown at Kenny's Pond Retirement Community.
- 4th Wednesday at 2:30 pm - Hymn Sing with Doreen Brown at Bishops Gardens Seniors Living.
- In addition, Doreen Brown assists Rev. Rebecca on the 1st Wednesday at 3 pm at Tiffany Village.

Looking for a person to carry out Snow Clearing and Ice Control: We are looking for someone to carry out the snow clearing and ice control of the church entrances/fire exits and walkways this winter season. If you or someone you know may be interested, please reach out to Stephanie on behalf of the property committee for details and more information at info@stjamesuc.org! Thank you!

Halloween at St. James: This year, we have decided to pivot to an indoor event. On *Sunday, October 25, 2026 from 2-3:30pm*, we will be offering pumpkin decorating for the children. ****no pumpkin carving will be done.**** There is no cost for this event and pumpkins will be provided. That being said, we have all our pumpkins chosen and waiting so any donation amount you can spare would be greatly appreciated. They can be put in the offering plate labelled "pumpkin", through Paypal by using the yellow donate button on stjamesuc.org (make sure to add a message or note specifying what the donation is for), or by using tap on the Square machine at our Sunday service. Craft supplies will not be turned away either and can be left at the church office during regular business hours. There is a limited number of pumpkins available so first come, first serve. Also, all children **MUST** be accompanied by a parent or guardian. A few volunteers are still needed, so if you have a spare moment, it would be greatly appreciated!

AOTS Men's Club Fish Dinner:

St. James United Church,
330 Elizabeth Avenue



AOTS Men's Service Club
Fish & Brewis Dinner

Friday, October 30, 2026
Time: 6pm Cost: \$30.00



* Tickets are available from any member of the AOTS Men's Club or Aubrey Hill - [709-726-8306](tel:709-726-8306) *

Considering Membership? We are planning to celebrate new members on November 15, our congregational anniversary. So let us know if you're currently a member of another congregation and considering transferring your membership to St. James, or were baptized in the United Church but never confirmed, or were baptized in another denomination and want to join the United Church. Whatever your circumstances, we would be happy to discern with you what is needed for you to become a member of our congregation. You can email Rev. James (james @ [stjamesuc.org](mailto:james@stjamesuc.org)) or Susan Pike (susanpike @ [warp.nfld.net](mailto:susanpike@warp.nfld.net)).

InsideOUT LGBTQIA+ Spirituality Gathering - Sunday, October 18, 2026: InsideOUT is an LGBTQIA+ an opportunity to explore the intersection between queerness and spirituality. Held in the Multi-Purpose Room (old Quadrangle Outreach Room) at 7:30PM

Harvest Tea & Bake Stall

Saturday, November 7th at 2PM-4PM.

Tickets \$10 available at the church office and at the door



HARVEST TEA & BAKE STALL

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

TIME: 2:00PM – 4:00PM



ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH
330 ELIZABETH AVENUE
ST. JOHN'S, NL

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR \$10

